

CLAIMS:

1. A method of harvesting a length of artery from a body comprising the following steps:
  - providing an elongate dissection cannula having a closed distal tip;
  - inserting said dissection cannula through an opening in the body near the length of the artery;
  - dissecting tissue away from the artery with said closed distal tip; and severing the artery at proximal and distal ends of the length of artery.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of retracting the dissected tissue away from the artery.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of retracting is performed by insufflation.
4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of removing said dissection cannula from said opening in the body prior to the step of retracting.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said dissection cannula further comprises a balloon.
6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of inflating said balloon with the balloon inserted between the artery and surrounding tissue.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein said balloon is an evert balloon and inflating said balloon causes said balloon to evert and advance along the artery.

8. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of retracting the dissected tissue away from the artery.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said step of retracting is performed by insufflation.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of removing said dissection cannula from said opening in the body prior to the step of retracting.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of ligating and dividing side branches from the artery.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of removing said dissection cannula from said opening in the body prior to the step of ligating and dividing.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of retracting the dissected tissue away from the artery.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of retracting is performed by insufflation.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of removing said dissection cannula from said opening in the body is performed prior to the step of retracting.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of inserting at least one surgical instrument through the opening in the body to divide and ligate the artery.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of severing the proximal end of the length of the artery is performed prior to the step of inserting said dissection cannula.